

## TWO SAY DOORS WERE LOCKED

BUILDING DEPARTMENT HEARS FROM FIRE SURVIVORS.

At the Fire Marshal's investigation a witness says they were not locked.

With the death yesterday of Frank West, who was killed in the New York Central building fire, the number of dead in Saturday's fire in Greene street reached 141.

Already there are three investigations under way, with a prospect of a fourth by a legislative committee. A resolution introduced at Albany yesterday by Assemblyman Culliver calls for a legislative committee of nine to look into the fire and report legislation needed to protect lives in factory loft buildings. Three of the commissioners are to be appointed by the Governor, three by the President of the Senate and three by the Speaker of the Assembly. For the expenses of the committee \$15,000 is appropriated.

**THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT INQUIRY.** In the absence of Rudolph P. Miller, the superintendent of the Building Department, Acting Superintendent Ludwig and Assistant Superintendent W. Rogers yesterday set on foot an investigation of their own yesterday. The evidence will be turned over to District Attorney Whitman.

Yesterday two witnesses were examined, but the girls who escaped injury, answered the questions put to her, and Rose Passaniti of 12 Stanton street swore that the girls' experiences and observations were hers, after they had been led to her. Both girls were operators working on the eighth floor, and escaped when Brown, the machinist, threw open the locked door on the Washington place side of the building. They swore that the door was locked. Part of the verbatim testimony follows:

Q. Were you familiar with the conditions at the building? A. Yes.

Q. Did you notice at any time when there was a fire whether the doors were fastened or not? A. The doors were always fastened on the eighth floor on the Washington place side.

Q. But the Greene street doors were not locked? A. No, the doors on the Greene street side were not locked, they were always open.

Q. When the fire started, were the doors on the eighth floor on the Washington place side open? A. No, sir, I do not know what happened there. The flames were between us. I only know what happened on the Washington place side. It was lucky the man came in time.

Q. What part of the room did you notice the fire come from? A. Not the Washington place department; it was from the other side.

**WHERE THE FIRE STARTED.** The girls said that the fire started under a cutting table and in one minute the room was in flames. They did not know whether any one was smoking, but said that it was against the rules to smoke.

Most of the girls on the eighth floor ran to the Washington place door when the fire started, and then when they found it locked turned away to the windows.

"I don't know what happened to them," was the testimony. "But the principal part is that if the Washington place door was open many of the girls would have been saved."

Q. Was there a partition in front of the stairway on the eighth floor so that night you could only leave two at a time? A. Yes, there was a door, a kind of screen, around the stairway.

Q. How high was it? A. I don't know, there was boxes all around. A man used to watch us as we went out.

Q. And you had to go through that little screen before you got to the stairway? A. Yes.

Q. How many girls were on the eighth floor? A. About two hundred. There were more in the cutting room upstairs. Most of the girls who escaped, I think, had a cousin who worked on the eighth floor. She is Nellie Ventura, 425 East Fourth street. About thirty girls escaped on the Washington place side with me.

At the continuation of the fire marshal's investigation yesterday at Fire Headquarters it was definitely established that the doors leading to the stairways were not locked on any of the floors. A partial story of what happened on the eighth floor, where most of the loss of life occurred, was obtained from William Grenspan, a machinist employed on that floor. He swore that the door on the Washington place side was locked as to which there had been much doubt.

**ONE MACHINIST'S TESTIMONY.** Grenspan, an undersized man of 25, testified that he was always the last to leave the floor at night, and that just before those on the eighth floor knew of the fire the bell for knocking off work rang and the girls had started for the dressing rooms. He went in to wash up after putting off the power from the machines and when he came out he saw flames coming from the back court. In two seconds, he said, it seemed as though flames were shooting up past the windows from the floor below on all sides of the building.

"All the girls," he said, "started to hang on to me and cried that they were dying and for me to take them to the roof. I said, 'I did not think then they were much danger. I ran over to the Washington place stairway. The door was locked and I went to the Greene street side. I saw a rush of flames up the stairs and I shut it again. Then I ran over to the stairs on the Greene street side and went up to the tenth floor and from there to the roof."

"A great many girls followed me through the smoke, but how many I don't know."

"Didn't you try to help the women?" asked the fire marshal.

"Well, the girls were hanging on me," replied Grenspan, "and the smoke was coming so thick that they could not see each other. When I reached the roof I faintly."

At the file of bodies found on the ninth floor in the light of Grenspan's testimony would indicate that the girls had followed him, but that in the smoke many had become confused and had run into any part of a dressing room near the door and died there.

Battalion Chief Worth, another witness, gave it as his opinion that had any attempt been made to use the building's fire apparatus many lives would have been saved. As to the availability of this fire hose connected with the standpipes in the hallways there is some dispute.

## Taste Pleasure in a Glass of Water



From the famous  
White Rock Springs  
at Waukesha, Wis.

## Still Rock

A natural uncharged water

A refreshing remedy for Stomach, Kidney, and Gouty Disorders

he believed that the gate had been found by some one and put in the position in which it appeared in the photograph. Chief Worth, the fire chief, arrived at the fire, testified that there was no apparatus in the department which could have been used to save lives. If the people inside, however, he used the hose instead of fire buckets he felt sure that many lives would have been saved. As to the scaling ladders, he said there had been no time to use them, as the people jumped too fast.

"Had the people jumped one at a time," he said, "they might have been saved, because the three-story door held them, but they came down in bunches, four or five at a time, and the net was destroyed, the spring breaking and the frame twisting. The men tried their best to hold the net, but were thrown into it by the impact of the falling bodies. It was the heat that made them jump."

Josephine Cannata, 17 years old, who was to have been married on Easter Sunday, and Mary A. Prestilippo, 22 years old, both of 18 Cornelia street, were added yesterday to the list of missing at the Washington place fire. Both were operators and worked on the ninth floor. Josephine was reported by her uncle, Nathan Cannata, of 722 Edison avenue. She was the daughter of the late Joseph Antonio, of 41 Glen Ridge avenue, Montclair, N. J.

The unclaimed property belonging to the fire victims was taken down to the property clerk of the Coroner's office yesterday and Clerk Doonan spent all day listing it.

Marcus Pedersen of 313 Third street identified a gold ring and a silver ring as having belonged to his sister Jennie, 18 years old, of 515 East Eleventh street. She was an operator.

Three relatives identified four pieces of jewelry as belonging to Esta Goxfeld. They did not claim the property and got away before the clerk could get her address.

**YESTERDAY'S IDENTIFICATIONS.** The bodies of nine girls were identified at the Morgue yesterday, leaving only twenty-one bodies still to be claimed. These were the identifications as certified by the Coroner:

DEL CATELLO, JOSEPHINE, 21, of 153 Cherry street.  
DOCKMAN, CLARA, 19, of 524 East Eleventh street.  
FICHTENHOLDT, VERA, 18, of 298 East Eighth street.  
PARMO, PROVIDENZA, 43, of 48 Stanton street.  
PERLBERG, JENNIE, 18, of 515 East Eleventh street.  
PINELLO, VINCENZA, 20, of 186 Chrystie street.  
SAUNDERS, SOPHIE, 21, of 174 Chrystie street.  
STOLITZ, JENNIE, 22, of 231 East Thirteenth street.  
VLAKOWSKY, FRIDA, 20, of 432 East Twelfth street. Died in New York Hospital.

**FEW DISASTER CONVICTIONS.** Coroner's Clerk Has No Record of One Since Buddenick Went to Sing Sing.

George P. LeBrun, the filing clerk of the Coroner's office, looked back over his records yesterday to see what punishment had fallen on those who were held guilty by a Coroner's jury for serious fires and accidents.

Sixteen lives were lost in a fire at Lexington avenue and 116th street on May 23, 1898. The owner, two contractors and a building inspector were held by the Coroner's jury for the Grand Jury. The Grand Jury indicted them, but they were never brought to trial.

Nine lives were lost in the Tarrant Building explosion, which occurred on January 10, 1901. Two members of the firm were held criminally responsible and were indicted. The indictments were dismissed on the request of the District Attorney.

When the Darling Building collapsed on March 10, 1901, eighteen lives were lost. A jury of architects and builders decided that the collapse was due to criminal negligence on the part of the builder, Eugene Allison, and the architect William O'Hay. Allison had been held in \$5,000 bail until just before the inquest, when he was discharged. He disappeared, and the verdict was rendered and has not been found since, although a warrant was issued.

Fourteen persons died in a fire at 161 Attorney street in September, 1900. Two men were held for the Grand Jury by the Coroner's jury, but were not indicted.

Leiner, the owner of a building at 105 Allen street, was held for the Grand Jury by the Coroner's jury after a fire occurring there had resulted in nine deaths. The building was condemned and was demolished. The Grand Jury failed to indict any one.

Four indictments brought against the building of the Iron Building, West Third street and West Broadway, because of a fire there in August, 1905, in which lives were lost, were subsequently dismissed.

The one disaster which brought punishment of which Mr. LeBrun could find any record was the Buddenick affair, in April, 1885, in which many workmen were killed. Charles A. Buddenick was sentenced to ten years in Sing Sing and to pay a \$500 fine.

**FIRE BENEFIT APRIL 10.** Theatre Managers Plan a Bill of Many Sorts of Entertainment.

dish: Morris Hillquit, Miss Leonora O'Reilly and A. M. Simons of Girard, Kan., who will speak in English, and A. Caroti, who will speak in Italian. Jacob Pankin, attorney for the union, will preside.

William Madly, chairman of the committee, said that the funeral of the unidentified dead, which was to have been held to-morrow, has been postponed until Tuesday, because Coroner Holtzhauser has decided that the bodies cannot be released until ten days from the date of the fire so as to give every opportunity for identification.

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**FIRE BENEFIT APRIL 10.** Theatre Managers Plan a Bill of Many Sorts of Entertainment.

The benefit for the relief of the fire sufferers by the Theatre Managers Association of Greater New York will be held on Tuesday afternoon, April 11, at the Metropolitan Opera House.

At the meeting of the association held yesterday President Charles B. Behan appointed this executive committee, to take charge: Percy Williams, chairman; Emilio Gatti-Casazza, Alf Hayman, Winthrop Ames, William Harris, Marcus Loew, William Hammerstein, John Brown, Sam H. Harris, E. D. Miner, Arthur Hammerstein and Charles Burnham.

## CONGESTION AND FIRE DANGER

BILL TO LIMIT TENEMENTS TO FOUR STORIES FAVORED.

Meeting in the Labor Temple Discusses the Greene Street Disaster—Benjamin Marsh Says That There Are 25,000 Preventable Deaths Here Yearly.

At a meeting held in the Labor Temple at Second avenue and Fourteenth street last night to discuss the Asch building fire resolutions were adopted favoring a bill proposed by the Commission on Congestion requiring that all tenements to be erected in the future in Manhattan below 183d street be restricted to four stories in height. A committee was appointed to draw up resolutions in regard to fire escapes on tenements and factories. The meeting also expressed itself in favor of a bill now before the Legislature which provides for an unpaid commission to take evidence as to the conditions which prevail in tenements where factory work is done after hours.

The neighborhood around the Labor Temple is one in which many of the girls who were killed in Saturday's fire lived, and to get to the meeting you had to pass one out of door meeting after another in which Socialist orators standing beneath banners hung with mourning denounced the present conditions in the factories.

Benjamin G. Marsh, a member of the Congestion Commission, said that one-half of the number of those who lost their lives in the Greene street disaster daily in this city through causes that could be prevented. He said that there were 25,000 preventable deaths in the city every year and that the majority of these arose from congestion. Tuberculosis and children's diseases were the causes of most of these, he said.

He advocated a bill which would provide 600 cubic feet of air for every one living in tenements. He said that even if owners of tenements and factories desired to give more space to their tenants they would not be able to do so because in case of fire they were discouraged by their attempts by the heavy taxes that they had to pay on improvements.

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## COURT IN DOUBT AS TO PROBE.

Jersey Republican Senate May Get Ahead of Hudson County Democrats.

Replying yesterday to a request of the Hudson county Board of Freeholders for a judicial investigation into the affairs of the board, Supreme Court Justice Francis J. Swazey said:

"I know of no statute which will empower me to order such an investigation as the majority of the Hudson county Board of Freeholders ask me to make in these resolutions which have just been handed me. I don't say there is no such statute, but I am not aware of any. I have therefore instructed the gentleman who brought these to me to request the County Council of Hudson county to inform me if he is aware of any such statute."

"You may rest assured that I shall take no immediate action. I shall at once, however, make a thorough search of the statutes to discover if there is any which covers this special case. There is a statute providing for the ordering of an investigation upon the application of twenty-five freeholders. It seems to me that does not apply in this case. Whether I shall consent or decline to order this investigation I will do so in the shortest possible time, either to-night or to-morrow morning."

The Board of Freeholders and the office of County Collector Stephen M. Egan will be investigated, but opinion is divided as to who will do the probing. A resolution is pending in the State Senate for the appointment of a special committee of three Senators to investigate in all counties wherein it is publicly charged that improper practices prevail. If this resolution is passed the probing will probably be done by two Republicans and one Democrat. If it doesn't pass a committee of two Republicans and one Democrat will apply to Justice Swazey for an investigation similar in character to the inquiry under way as to the cost of constructing and furnishing the new \$2,500,000 court house.

**FLOOD BURSTS HUDSON DAM.** Carries off Car Tracks—William Wood's Home Burned in the Storm.

SARATOGA, N. Y., March 28.—Weakened by the heavy rains a 500 foot coffer dam in the Hudson River south of Mechanicville gave way to-day and more than 150 feet of trolley tracks and a long stretch of State road were undermined.

Fields for miles around were flooded and telephone poles were carried down. No lives were lost and the water did not reach any houses. The damage was about \$10,000.

The dam was built of rock slate by one of the State large canal construction companies for the purpose of leaving an open space in the river where the rock could be blasted. Although only one end of the dam was washed out, Italians were at once set to work to dynamite the remainder and divert the floods into the natural channel.

High water is reported from all points along the Hudson, although the watchers do not fear trouble. At Corinth the rise in the river enabled the International Paper Company to operate five more machines to-day. The plant has been running at half its capacity for some time owing to lack of water.

NEWARK, N. Y., March 28.—In last night's thunderstorm the factory of the Mead Taff Company at Cornwall was destroyed, with a loss of \$100,000. At Marlborough the home of Frank McConnell was struck.

The Darrell R. Jeffreys place at New Windsor, occupied by William Wood, proprietor of the Hotel Gotham in New York, was destroyed and one of his little silver service was saved. The loss is \$20,000, partially covered by insurance. Mr. Jeffreys, the owner, is in business at 39 Cortlandt street, New York.

**JUDGE FAWCETT A VICTIM.** Dark Election Booth Got Him Enrolled as a Democrat.

Judge Lewis L. Fawcett of the County Court in Brooklyn, who is chairman of the Republican county committee for three or four years before his election to the bench, discovered on Monday, much to his surprise, that while registering last fall in the Seventeenth Assembly district he had enrolled as a Democrat.

He at once applied to Justice Aspinall of the Supreme Court for an order directing the Board of Elections to show cause why his name should not be shifted to the Republican column, declaring that he had inadvertently enrolled under the Democratic emblem, owing to the darkness in the booth.

The order was granted and made returnable before Justice Crane to-morrow. Col. Michael J. Dady, an eminent Republican, and I. Graham McMahon, Democratic election commissioner, had recently gone to the courts for relief from similar embarrassments.

**JUMPED INTO HORSE TROUGH.** George Ayres of Brooklyn, 61-2 Years in Matteawan, Is Trying to Get Out.

POTOMACK, N. Y., March 28.—George Ayres of Brooklyn, who illustrated his belief in baptism by immersion by plunging fully clothed into a horse trough filled with water, has been confined for six years and a half in the Matteawan State Hospital for the Insane. In habeas corpus proceedings just brought for his release it is alleged that Ayres is sane and that Dr. Lamb, the medical superintendent, Dr. D. L. Smith, his assistant, have so stated to Norman A. Lee, the petitioner, and other persons.

The immersion resulted, it is alleged, from an argument over religion which Ayres was intoxicated. The writ in his case was served to-day on Dr. Lamb and District Attorney Mack by Mr. Lee. It is returnable Friday before Justice Aspinall in Brooklyn.

**NEW ALDERMAN.** H. H. Curran Chosen in the Place of Triestram B. Johnson.

Triestram B. Johnson, who was Republican leader of the Board of Aldermen, resigned from the board yesterday to become one of the solicitors of the United States Treasury. As an Alderman he got \$2,990. As solicitor his salary will be \$4,000.

Henry H. Curran was elected to succeed Mr. Johnson. Mr. Curran is a newspaper correspondent. The Republican Aldermen will caucus on Friday afternoon to select a new floor leader.

Frederick C. Tanner has been elected Republican leader of the Twenty-fifth Assembly district to succeed Mr. Johnson, who resigned to become a solicitor. Tanner is a member of the law firm of Woodruff, Boyce & Butcher. He is a nephew of Gen. Stewart L. Woodruff, the head of the firm.

**ARRESTED ON THE ROOF.** Janitor Says Bennett Was Watching Nurses Afar Off.

James Bennett of 147 East Fifty-seventh street, a groom in the employ of Mrs. C. P. Huntington of 2 East Fifty-seventh street, and son of Frank Bennett, Mrs. Huntington's head man, was found last night on the roof of the tenement at 125 East Seventh street, by George B. Tate, the janitor.

Tate says the young man was looking across the roofs to the German Hospital, where the nurses could be seen going to bed. Tate took him to the East Sixty-seventh street police station, where he was locked up.

## The Anglo-American Sack Suit for Men—at Saks'

We are getting back to naturalness in clothes. We are to look more like ourselves, which, after all, is the honorable thing to do. We are going to drop all subterfuge for a season at least. And we are going to discover that artificial aids don't enhance our appearance quite so much as we suspected.

The Anglo-American coat will convince you of this, as it has convinced us. There is not one iota of artificiality about it. It has narrow shoulders, or shoulders no broader than those which it covers; is cut slightly to the figure, and is refreshingly negligee and comfortable. Buttons, with two or three buttons, exposing a high vest that has five or six buttons to its credit. Patch or regulation flap pockets. Collar is soft roll. Fronts are soft, yet made so as to obviate breaking. Entire garment is an exhilarating change, has more individuality than padding, and is brimful of style.

We call this coat Anglo-American in order to give the Englishman credit for having evolved such a delightful garment. The American part of it means that it is Saks-made, which is standard for all that is best in American clothes for men.

In a splendid assortment of fabrics, and every suit cut and tailored with all that distinctiveness which sustains our reputation for clothes.

17.50 to 40.00

## Saks &amp; Company

Broadway at 34th Street.

## Manufacturers Wholesalers

One of our tenants said:

## "Bush Terminal Lofts Are Death Proof As Well As Fireproof"

Lofts at the Bush Terminal are considered to be absolutely safe for employees.

While we have 108,000 sq. ft. in each floor this space is divided into seven sections, each from 12,000 to 21,000 sq. ft. in size. Each section is regarded by the fire insurance companies as a separate, fireproof vault.

In the first place the buildings are of reinforced concrete. They are equipped with an \$800,000 system of sprinkler fire protection. There are two systems, both our own, a fresh water system, the second an auxiliary salt water system with an inexhaustible supply from the bay. No fire has EVER gained headway in our Loft Buildings.

These lofts are equipped with broad accessible outside fire escapes, like stairways. They also open on wide fireproof hallways with broad fireproof stairways leading down. All lofts except those on the Western end have these fireproof halls and fireproof stairways on BOTH ENDS. The lofts are equipped with very large, self closing fireproof doors which OPEN OUTWARD.

You could start a fire in the middle of one of these floors